# FAN GRAPHIX

Number Four

Fandom's Creative Outlet

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## Number Four


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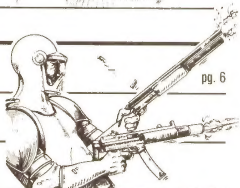

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*SUBSCRIPTIONS: FanGraphiX annual subscriptions are available for $15.00 postage-paid in the U.S. and $18.00 elsewhere. Send checks or money orders to: FanGraphiX, P.O. Box 8042, Chicago, IL 60680-8042.*

# EDITORIAL

First of all I'd like to mention that Vic's story *War On Jupiter* has been cancelled due to the problem of FanGraphiX's new bi-monthly deadline. My apologies to all the fans who have been awaiting Vic's dynamic ending. Although the story has been cancelled from the regular book, this doesn't mean that the story will not appear in the FanGraphiX Annual Number One (due out next Fall). The entire story, including it's ending, will appear if there is enough demand for it. This will give Vic time to finish it to his liking.

Second, is the fact that Tony's strip, *The Team* has also been cancelled for the time being due to Tony's lack of time (he lost his TARDIS). At this time he's looking for an artist who may be interested in doing the strip in the future for FanGraphiX.

Third, I'd like to take this time to thank Tony for letting me work on this flashy fanzine and also all the fans who have written with praise for FanGraphiX. I'm surprised at the response Fandom's Creative Outlet is actually getting from all kinds of people! Please keep those letters coming—we always like to hear what you have to say!

**FanGraphiX**
P.O. Box 8042
Chicago, IL 60680-8042

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*SPECIAL THANKS TO:*
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Kim Davis

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RALPH SNARF - 1985 Marc Hansen • THE LAST DIG, DIG? - 1985 Rich Mrozek • HALLEY'S COMET - 1985 Jim McGreal • ARMOR - 1985 Russell Miller • FANTAZ - 1985 Marc Hansen.

# YOUR VIEWS

**FanGraphiX**
P.O. Box 8042
Chicago, IL 60680

**Dear Sirs,**
I recently saw a copy of your magazine *FanGraphiX* at my local comics store. Initially what caught my eye was the quality of the printing of the book. Being used to seeing 'zines printed only as good as the comics themselves or worse, it was a definite surprise to see the heavier, whiter interiors, and good quality cover stock. And a sharp color separation for the cover art. That is what grabbed my interest right off.

I have been producing art for the Science Fiction/Fantasy market for a while now having done covers for Heavy Metal, work for game companies, and paperbacks. Just recently I decided to try my hand at some comic type material.

I painted the enclosed pieces on speculation for DC Comics, which were subsequently turned down by them. However, on the strength of these pieces and my other work I have been able to get work for some other companies.

I have had these pieces sitting in my portfolio for quite some time and after seeing the quality of your reproduction on the cover I thought I'd take the opportunity to approach you about using the work on the cover of your magazine. I would like to see these pieces get out to the general public but I did not offer them anywhere else because I wasn't happy with any of the printing on the other books.

If you are interested in possibly using one or both of the pieces or would like to see samples of some other work please feel free to contact me to make arrangements. Please keep these samples for your files.

Thank you very much for your time and I look forward to your response.

**David Dorman**
Ft. Walton Beach, FL

*Thank you David for your letter. It's good to know that there are people out there that actually notice FanGraphiX's quality standards.*

**Dear FanGraphiX,**
I want to thank you very much for your time and consideration. I take a great deal of pride in my artwork and although it may not be professional caliber, I have found a favorable response in my hometown area.

My dealings with you are my first with organized Fandom and I really have been impressed. Your kind words concerning my work, during our phone conversation, were greatly appreciated. I hope that all of my dealings with FanGraphiX will be as pleasant.

Both my family and friends are incredibly excited by the opportunity which you are offering to unpublished fan artists like myself.

**David Tryzenski**
Wilkes-Barre, PA

*At FanGraphiX we believe in giving credit and praise where it's due. All artists need that pat on the back to get them motivated to continue their work. You'll see your work in issue #6, and keep at it!*

**Dear FanGraphiX:**
Thank you very much for including us, CROWQUILL COMICS, in your FANGRAPHIX's NEWS FLASH. It was a pleasant surprise to see EB'NN receiving your attention.

FanGraphiX looks like a very interesting book. Your plan to reduce the book to comic size is an excellent idea and I'm sure your circulation will rise. The illos, promoting your book, look good (especially Marc Hanson's) and I look foward to its release.

**Michael Dimpsey**
Brookfield, IL

*Thanks for your letter Michael, we appreciate it. FanGraphiX is a fanzine for fandom, and fandom also includes quality new comics (as well as talent) which needs exposure as well. That's where FanGraphiX's News Flash comes in!*

*If you, our readers, haven't had the opportunity to see FanGraphiX's News Flash, just send a SASE, it's Free!*

**Dear Sir or Madam:**
Having read the second issue of FanGraphiX and having enjoyed it, I am interested in contributing material. However I have a question about submissions. Your indicia states that "Contents may not be reproduced at all without written permission from the publisher." Does this mean that contributors sacrifice the rights to original material by having it printed in FanGraphiX? Thank you very much for your time and good luck with the magazine.

**Steve Price**
Lindenhurst, NY

*In our last issue, Steve, we had a very similar letter. To receive information and an application for copyrighting your work in your name, write the Copyright Office, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20559. I'll just say what I had in my reply to the other letter, that the material stays the property of the creator, Forever, Period.*

## Russ Miller Interview
*by Janice Kathryn Lane*

One of the hardest professions in the art world has to be that of the freelance artist. A jack of all trades, a freelancer has to do his own public relations, promotion, business management and, in whatever time is left over (usually the wee hours of the night) produce high quality art.

Russ Miller, one of *FANGRAPHIX*'s newest contributors, has been in the freelance business for 15 years. The following are some of his thoughts on what it takes to keep going in this business and on the new character he has developed for the strip *Armor.*

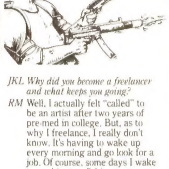


Illustration © 1985 Russell Miller

*JKL Why did you become a freelancer and what keeps you going?*

*RM* Well, I actually felt "called" to be an artist after two years of pre-med in college. But, as to why I freelance, I really don't know. It's having to wake up every morning and go look for a job. Of course, some days I wake up and just go fishing.

What keeps me going is the challenge of it. There's lots of problem solving, lots of creative learning, pride in workmanship, that kind of thing.

*JKL What kind of success have you had in 15 years of freelancing?*

*RM* Last year I won a national design award, which meant a lot to me. I've gained a great deal of trust from clients and printers which makes me feel I've accomplished some worthwhile goals. You realize, however, that in those past years I've done some time as a security guard, a fast food cook, gardener, janitor, stock boy, store clerk, and photographer, freelancing all the while. I also managed to freelance while in college. The more experience, the greater source of information to "draw" from (pardon the pun).

*JKL You seem to place a high value on education. How many degrees do you have and why have you put so much time and energy into your educational pursuits?*

*RM* Currently I hold three degrees, a B.A. in drawing and painting, and two Masters Degrees (one in sculpture, and one in theology). I suppose that I've always wanted to be a good steward of all that I possess including talents. I've pursued education to "better my calling," primarily wishing always to improve, always progress.

*JKL Gil, the main character of your strip* Armor *is an unusual character. Where did he come from?*

*RM* To be perfectly honest, Gil Gamesh is my freelance nature. As you probably know, the term freelance means mercenary. I believe Sir Walter Scott was the first to use that old term for mercenary in conjunction with artists, writers, musicians and others that work for a wide variety of clients. Anyway, I sort of relate to Gil in terms of being alone, specialized, professional, and willing to be sacrificial.

*JKL Where did the name Gil Gamesh come from?*

*RM* Gilgamesh is a kind of eternal warrior. Originally a Babylonian king of 2,000 B.C. or so, he's mentioned in an ancient writing containing an account which dovetails the Biblical flood story. Legend has it that every battle ever waged has a Gilgamesh who is mortally wounded but never dies. He only recovers to find himself in yet another battle. He's a mysterious character, sort of like the Biblical Melchizedek.

*JKL Of course, that immediately leads to the next question, who or what is Doc.*

*RM* Doc is Gil's supportive influence. I suppose that my Doc would be my wife. Freelancing is a very hard way to make a living and sometimes I feel like I'm coming home from a battle. Thank God, I've got a wife that sort of "puts me back together" so I can go out and take on bigger and more challenging jobs.

*JKL What got you started as a cartoonist?*

*RM* Good question, and I've asked myself that many times. I've got this friend, John Satterwhite, who is a multiple Olympic Gold Medalist in skeet shooting. John puts on an incredible trick shooting exhibition. He is probably the best there's ever been at what he does. John once said to me, "You know the gold medals and awards don't mean much to people anymore. It's these silly exhibition shots that have gotten me all the fame and all the work I have now." Then he said, "You know it'll probably be the same with you. You're a good illustrator and have diplomas and awards, but you're going to find out that some little thing that you really enjoy is going to open up new vistas for you." Well, here I am doing comics and I guess the whole point is I really enjoy it.

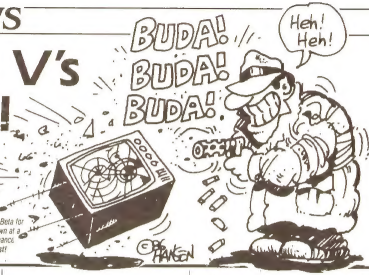
Illustration © 1985 Russell Miller

*JKL What advice do you have for others who may be thinking of following a profession similar to yours?*

*RM* Like the man on the street that was asking a stranger, "How do I get to Carnegie Hall?" The stranger answered, "Practice, practice, practice." If you honestly want to do something you've got to outlive and out-perform those immediately around you. Be relentless, and don't short change yourself in experience or challenges. Learn all that you can and try to wisely apply all that you know toward your goals, whatever they may be. There's a lot to be said for determination and dogged perseverance.

# VIDEO VIEWS

# MISTER V's HITLIST!




*The following movies are available on video, both in VHS and Beta for rental or purchase. Many of these movies are also being shown at a local variety theatre and on pay TV. Wherever you find the chance, to see these movies, remember, they're on Mr V's Hit List!*

**TRON**
**Jeff Bridges**

See what it's like to be inside the computer.

**GOLDFINGER**
**1964**

**Sean Connery**

One of the classic and *best* Bond movies!

**LOGAN'S RUN**
**1976**

**Michael York, Peter Ustinov**

A dazzling preview of America in the 23rd century. The only crime is living over 30 years old!

**OUTLAND**
**1981**

**Sean Connery**

High Noon on a mine on a satellite of Jupiter.

**TIMERIDER**
**1982**

**Michael Nesmith**

A champion motorcycle racer stumbles into a time experiment and finds himself in the year 1877! Still on his bike!

**PHILADELPHIA EXPERIMENT**

**Michael Paré**

This John Carpenter directed motion picture is pure SF entertainment. Scientist accidently discovers time travel—the outcome is intriguing!

**SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES**

**Jason Robards, Jonathan Pryce, Diane Ladd**

A spine-tingling film adaptation from Ray Bradbury's most popular novel. Two thrill seeking boys discover the deadly secret intent of Mr. Dark's Carnival!

**COMA**
**1978**

**Michael Douglas, Genevieve Bujold**

An exciting thriller unfolds when Dr. Susan Wheeler discovers the strange horrifying secret of the hospital she works for!

**FAIL SAFE**
**1964**

**Henry Fonda, Walter Matthau**

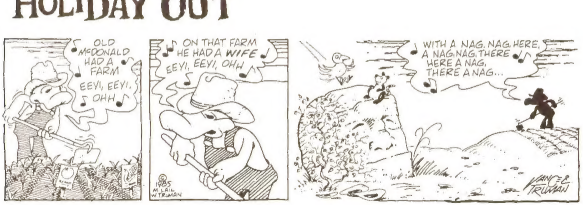
What happens if an American Bomber accidently *drops* atomic warheads on Moscow. First Rate.

**THE NIGHT STALKER**
**1971**

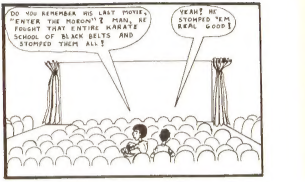
**Darren McGavin, Carrol Lynley**

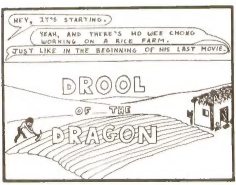
A reporter is assigned to some strange murders and discovers something supernatural about the murderer.

# HOLIDAY OUT


OLD MCDONALD HAD A FARM
EEYI, EEYI, I OHH
ON THAT FARM HE HAD A WIFE
EEYI, EEYI, OHH
WITH A NAG, NAG HERE, A NAG, NAG THERE HERE A NAG, THERE A NAG...
©1985 MICHAEL WITTENBERG
©1985 MICHAEL TRUMAN

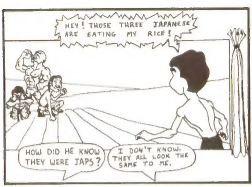
TWO, PLEASE.
NO ARE CHONG OH, BOY! HE'S ALMOST AS GOOD AS BRUCE LEE!
NOW SHOWING
DROOL OF THE DRAGON

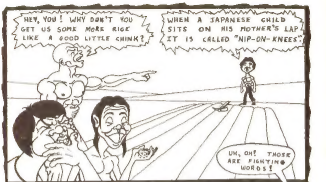

DO YOU REMEMBER HIS LAST MOVIE, "ENTER THE MORON"? MAN, HE FOUGHT THAT ENTIRE KARATE SCHOOL OF BLACK BELTS AND STOMPED THEM ALL!
YEAH! HE STOMPED 'EM REAL GOOD!


HEY, IT'S STARTING.
YEAH, AND THERE'S NO WAY CHONG WORKING ON A RICE FARM.
JUST LIKE IN THE BEGINNING OF HIS LAST MOVIE
DROOL
OF THE
DRAGON

WORKING ON A RICE FARM CULTIVATES HARMONY BETWEEN THE YIN AND THE YANG OF ONE'S SPIRIT. IT ALSO CULTIVATES RICE.

COME ON, MAN! SHUT UP ALREADY AND GET INTO A FIGHT!
EXIT


HEY! THOSE THREE JAPANESE ARE EATING MY RICE!
HOW DID HE KNOW THEY WERE JAPS?
I DON'T KNOW. THEY ALL LOOK THE SAME TO ME.


HEY, YOU! WHY DON'T YOU GET US SOME MORE RICE LIKE A GOOD LITTLE CHINK?
WHEN A JAPANESE CHILD SITS ON HIS MOTHER'S LAP IT IS CALLED "NIP-ON-KNEES"
UH, OH! THOSE ARE FIGHTING WORDS!

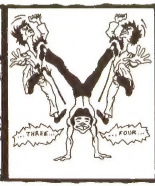
HAI-EEE!
CRACK

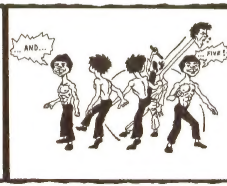
YOU CAPITALIST JAPANESE ARE TOO BUSY ASSEMBLING DATSUNS TO DEVELOP THE NECESSARY BALANCE OF MIND AND BODY FOR GOOD KUNG FU.
YOU SHOULD TRY RICE FARMING.

OH, MAN! HE STOMPED THOSE GUYS!
YEAH! HE STOMPED 'EM REAL GOOD!

WHERE IS HE NOW?
HE'S AT THE JAPANESE MASTERS MONASTERY TO GET PAYMENT FOR THE DAMAGE TO HIS FARM.
DOES THAT MAKE SENSE?
NOT REALLY.
YOU MUST REPAY ME FOR MY RICE THAT YOUR MEN ATE!
I WILL GIVE IT TO YOU IF YOU CAN BEAT MY FIVE BEST FIGHTERS!

O.K! THERE'S ONE...
...TWO...


THREE...
...FOUR


AND...
...FIVE!

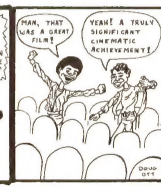
NOW GIVE ME MY RICE!
NOT FIRST YOU WILL HAVE TO BEAT ME TO GET IT!

HOW CAN THAT OLD MAN BEAT HIM UP LIKE THAT?
IN CHINA, OLD AGE MEANS WISDOM AND MASTERY.
IN AMERICA, OLD AGE MEANS ARTHRITIS AND RETIREMENT.

MAN! HOW IS HE EVER GONNA BEAT THAT OLD MAN?
HOW AM I EVER GOING TO BEAT THAT OLD MAN?

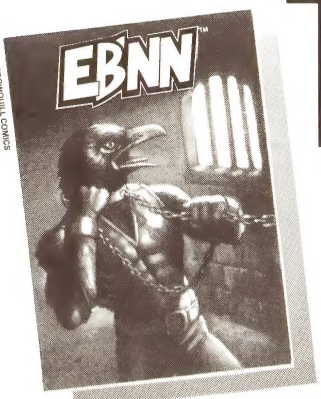
I KNOW! I'LL USE MY MYSTERIOUS DRAGON KICK!

THIS ENTIRE ADVENTURE REMINDS ME OF AN ANCIENT CHINESE SAYING!
ONLY WHEN MIXED WITH ZEN DOES SOGGY RICE TASTE NICE.


MAN, THAT WAS A GREAT FILM!
YEAH! A TRULY SIGNIFICANT CINEMATIC ACHIEVEMENT!
DOJO 1/11

# EB'NN™

# THE TIME IS NOW.™

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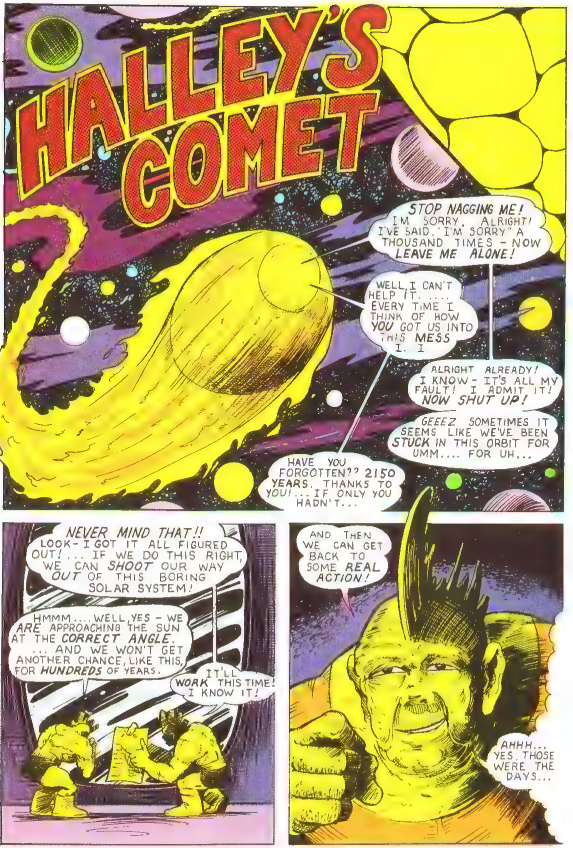
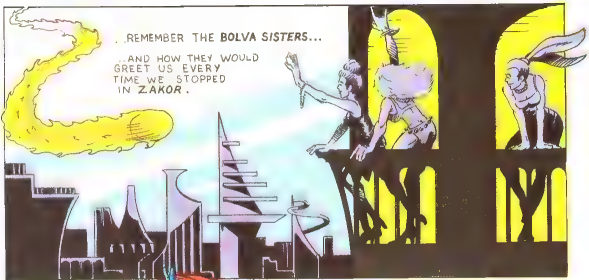
**NUMBER THREE SHIPPING IN APRIL**


HALLEY'S COMET
STOP NAGGING ME! I'M SORRY. ALRIGHT! I'VE SAID, 'I'M SORRY' A THOUSAND TIMES - NOW LEAVE ME ALONE!
WELL, I CAN'T HELP IT.... EVERY TIME I THINK OF HOW YOU GOT US INTO THIS MESS I. I
ALRIGHT ALREADY! I KNOW - IT'S ALL MY FAULT! I ADMIT IT! NOW SHUT UP!
GEEEZ SOMETIMES IT SEEMS LIKE WE'VE BEEN STUCK IN THIS ORBIT FOR UMM.... FOR UH...
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?? 2150 YEARS. THANKS TO YOU!... IF ONLY YOU HADN'T...
NEVER MIND THAT!! LOOK - I GOT IT ALL FIGURED OUT! IF WE DO THIS RIGHT, WE CAN SHOOT OUR WAY OUT OF THIS BORING SOLAR SYSTEM!
HMMM.... WELL, YES - WE ARE APPROACHING THE SUN AT THE CORRECT ANGLE. ... AND WE WON'T GET ANOTHER CHANCE, LIKE THIS, FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.
IT'LL WORK THIS TIME! I KNOW IT!
AND THEN WE CAN GET BACK TO SOME REAL ACTION!
AHHH... YES. THOSE WERE THE DAYS...

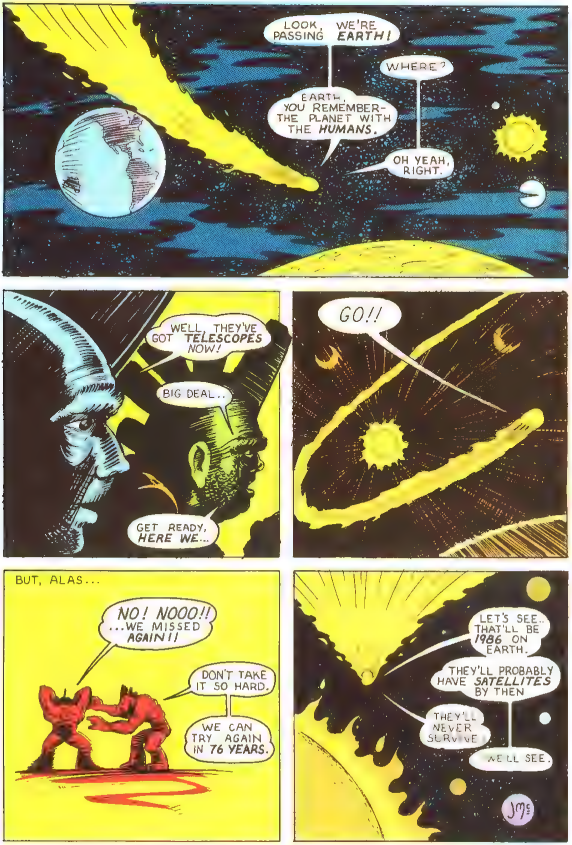

...REMEMBER THE BOLVA SISTERS...
...AND HOW THEY WOULD GREET US EVERY TIME WE STOPPED IN ZAKOR.

YEAH, AND THOSE ALL-NIGHT PARTIES ON XAK.

...AND HOW ABOUT THAT MAGIC ELIXIR FROM ARKOR - BEST HOME-MADE HOOTCH I'VE EVER...
OOPHS!

YEAH, WELL THAT'S HOW WE GOT INTO THIS MESS IN THE FIRST PLACE.
I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT.
STEERING INTO THAT ASTEROID BELT - DRUNK AND SCREWING UP THE CONTROLS!

YEAH YEAH YEAH.
GOD - I HOPE THIS WORKS!
I CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS!


LOOK, WE'RE PASSING EARTH!
WHERE?
EARTH, YOU REMEMBER- THE PLANET WITH THE HUMANS.
OH YEAH, RIGHT.
WELL, THEY'VE GOT TELESCOPES NOW!
BIG DEAL..
GET READY, HERE WE...
GO!!
BUT, ALAS...
NO! NOOO!! ...WE MISSED AGAIN!!
DON'T TAKE IT SO HARD.
WE CAN TRY AGAIN IN 76 YEARS.
LET'S SEE. THAT'LL BE 1986 ON EARTH.
THEY'LL PROBABLY HAVE SATELLITES BY THEN
THEY'LL NEVER SURVIVE
WE'LL SEE.
JMS

ARMOR
GIL...
GIL... IT'S TIME TO GET UP...
THEY'LL BE HERE IN ABOUT AN HOUR. YOU'D BETTER GET READY.
OKAY. THANKS DOC. WILL YA HELP ME ON WITH THE SUIT?
SURE.

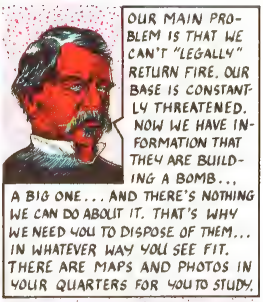
I'LL HAVE THEM CALL YOU WHEN IT'S OVER, DOC... LIKE ALWAYS.
ALRIGHT, GIL. BE CAREFUL.
OF COURSE. BYE BABE.
GIL GAMESH HAD WORN THE SUIT OF A FREE AGENT FOR 15 YEARS NOW. THE SUIT COVERS THE SCARS AND MISSING PARTS. IT MAKES HIM WHOLE AGAIN...

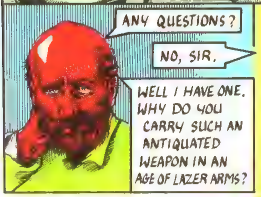
NO RETREAT NO SURRENDER
YET, WHEN HE WEARS IT, IT IS FOR ONE PURPOSE ONLY... TO KILL.
WELCOME ABOARD ARMORMAN. WE'LL BE IN PRESKIT IN ABOUT TWO HOURS IF EVERYTHING GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN.
I DON'T ENVY YOU YOUR JOB. IF YOU COME OUT ALIVE, I'LL BUY YOU A BEER.
YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A DEAL!

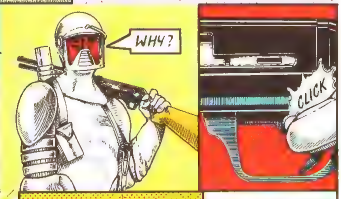
LATER... EN ROUTE.
HEADS UP EVERYONE. WE'RE FLYING OVER PRESKIT. THINGS COULD GET HOT.
SPLAWNG
TZINNNG
YIP!
BWEEEEE
LOOK! ON THAT ROOFTOP! WE'RE TAKIN'.
BAM
FIRE!
POW!
KNOCK
THIS IS EAGLE SIX-NINER. WE'RE EXPERIENCING SNIPER FIRE OVER TOWN. ONE GUNNER HIT. HAVE EMERGENCY STAND BY READY— ET'A FIVE MINUTES
HOLD ON, PILOT. I CAN SEE THEM DOWN THERE.
I'M NOT GOVERNMENT. I CAN SHOOT BACK. LEVEL 'ER OUT FLYBOY. I'VE GOT A SURPRISE FOR THESE BUZZARDS!

CLICK
KA WHAM
NICE SHOOTING! YOU CAN RIDE THIS BIRD ANYTIME YOU WANT, PAL!
THANKS.
THERE'S THE BASE. HOW'S MY GUNNER?
HE'LL MAKE IT.
THAT'S SOME CANNON YOU'VE GOT THERE.
YEAH, IT'S OKAY FOR LONG RANGE.
THANKS FOR THE LIFT. WHERE DO I REPORT IN?
SNAP
STRAIGHT AHEAD. SOMEONE WILL CHECK YOUR GEAR INTO YOUR ROOM. GOOD HUNTING.

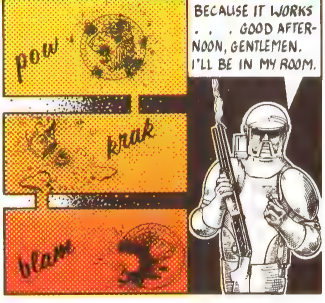
BASICALLY, WE'RE DEALING WITH A GROUP OF TERRORISTS... CAR BOMBS, SNIPER FIRE, THAT SORT OF THING.

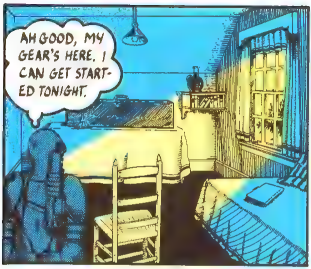

OUR MAIN PROBLEM IS THAT WE CAN'T "LEGALLY" RETURN FIRE. OUR BASE IS CONSTANTLY THREATENED. NOW WE HAVE INFORMATION THAT THEY ARE BUILDING A BOMB... A BIG ONE... AND THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT. THAT'S WHY WE NEED YOU TO DISPOSE OF THEM... IN WHATEVER WAY YOU SEE FIT. THERE ARE MAPS AND PHOTOS IN YOUR QUARTERS FOR YOU TO STUDY.


ANY QUESTIONS?
NO, SIR.
WELL I HAVE ONE. WHY DO YOU CARRY SUCH AN ANTIQUATED WEAPON IN AN AGE OF LAZER ARMS?


WHY?
CLICK

WAM
BAM
BAM


pow
krak
blam
BECAUSE IT WORKS . . . GOOD AFTERNOON, GENTLEMEN. I'LL BE IN MY ROOM.

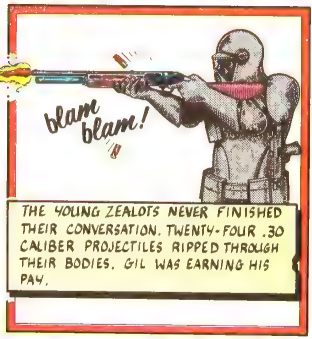

AH GOOD, MY GEAR'S HERE. I CAN GET STARTED TONIGHT.

SEARCHING FOR A BOMB AND A TERRORIST HIDEOUT IS NOT AN EASY TASK. GIL, HOWEVER, WAS A PROFESSIONAL...
FLEHETTE

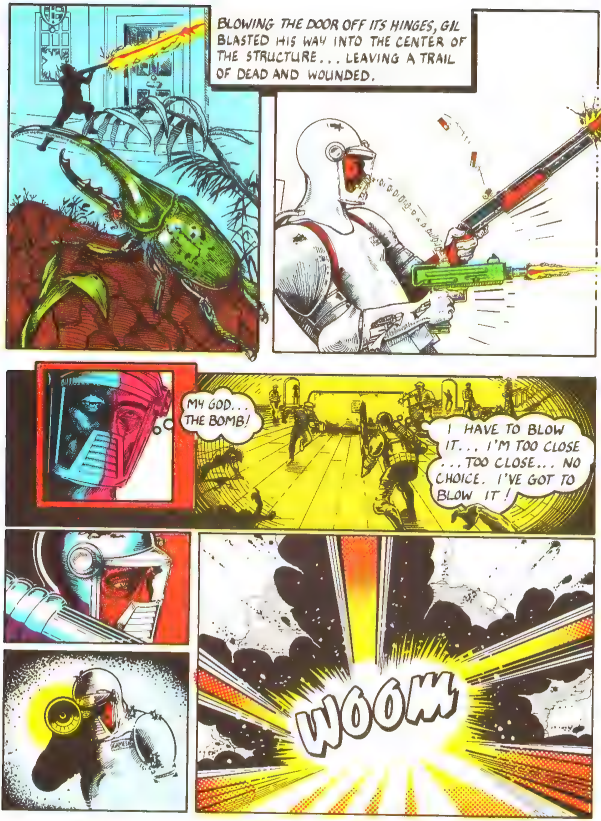
THAT EVENING, LIKE SO MANY TIMES BEFORE, GIL STARTED HIS ASSIGNMENT.

AT THE FIRST LIGHT OF DAY HE HAD HIS FIRST TARGETS IN SIGHT.

DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
NO... YOU'RE JUST PARANOID 'CAUSE OF THOSE...


blam blam!
THE YOUNG ZEALOTS NEVER FINISHED THEIR CONVERSATION. TWENTY-FOUR .30 CALIBER PROJECTILES RIPPED THROUGH THEIR BODIES. GIL WAS EARNING HIS PAY.

DAY BY DAY GIL PURSUED HIS OBJECTIVE. SOMETIMES IT WAS EASY...
SOMETIMES IT WAS DIFFICULT...
BUT THE OUTCOME WAS ALWAYS THE SAME... 'TILL FINALLY HE FOUND THEIR HEADQUARTERS.
GIL KNEW THEY WERE INSIDE... BEHIND THOSE CRUMBLING WALLS.
AND THERE WAS A GOOD CHANCE HE WOULD BE AMBUSHED AS SOON AS HE DARED ENTER.
THEY WERE INSIDE ALRIGHT...
...AND THEY WERE WAITING FOR HIM...
GIL WORKED HIS WAY TOWARD THE BUILDING, PICKING HIS SHOTS AS THOUGH IMPERVIOUS TO THE FIRE RAINING DOWN ON HIM. LIKE A STEEL SHEATHED AVENGING ANGEL, GIL MADE HIS WAY INTO THE FORTRESS OF THE BOMB BUILDERS.


BLOWING THE DOOR OFF ITS HINGES, GIL BLASTED HIS WAY INTO THE CENTER OF THE STRUCTURE... LEAVING A TRAIL OF DEAD AND WOUNDED.
MY GOD... THE BOMB!
I HAVE TO BLOW IT... I'M TOO CLOSE ...TOO CLOSE... NO CHOICE. I'VE GOT TO BLOW IT!
WOOM

THE NEXT DAY.
BOY, THAT GUY WAS THOROUGH. LOOK AT THE RUBBLE.
I DON'T THINK WE'LL FIND ANYTHING.
OH WELL, SET 'ER DOWN AND LET'S LOOK. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DELIVER THE REMAINS TO THAT WOMAN... DOC, HE CALLED HER.
TOO LATE FOR A DOCTOR NOW.
MY GOD! LOOK! WHAT'S LEFT OF HIM IS STILL ALIVE!
THANKS, DOC. YOU'RE A GREAT MECHANIC. WITHOUT YOUR SKILLS I'D HAVE GIVEN UP YEARS AGO WHEN I STILL HAD A GOOD ARM AND A GOOD LEG LEFT. YOUR ARMOR HAS LET ME GO ON LIVING...
...AND SAVED MY LIFE AGAIN. I OWE IT ALL TO YOU, DOC.
SURE GIL... DON'T MENTION IT.
B. Miller © 84

"THE LAST DIG, DIG?"
HEY, PROF—C'MERE & TAKE A LOOK AT DIS!
..LOOKS LIKE A—
YES! YES, IT IS! AN ENTRANCE TO A TOMB! NOW IF ONLY THIS SEAL IS...
THE SEAL OF THE EGYPTIAN WIZARD IMHOTEP—THE LAST IMHOTEP—THE LAST AND BEST HIDDEN TOMB OF ALL!!
AND BEST YET—THE SEAL IS INTACT! NO ROBBER COULD HAVE STOLEN IMHOTEP'S MOST TREASURED POSSESSIONS, ENTOMBED WITH HIM FOR HIS JOURNEY TO THE 'NEXT LIFE'!
I DON'T SEE NONE A DEM RICHES YA BEEN YAPPIN' ABOUT! MATTER A FACT IS, IT LOOKS REAL EMPTY.
WHAT WE FIND IN THERE SHOULD SURPASS EVEN THE RICHES OF KING TUT'S TOMB! AFTER YEARS OF DIGGING IN THIS BLOODY DESERT—SUCCESS AT LAST! WE'LL BE FAMOUS— NOT TO MENTION THE UNTOLD WEALTH—

STRANGE! VERY STRANGE INDEED!
HEY-MAYBE IT'S ALL STASHED IN THERE WID THE BODY, HUH?
HOURS LATER...
IN THE BURIAL CHAMBER HOWEVER
NUTHIN'! WHAT THE--!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! MIGHTY MIGHTY-WEALTHY BEYOND CREDULITY BURIED IN THIS PHARAOH'S TOMB!!
ONLY ONE PLACE LEFT, AIN'T THERE?
WHAT THE--?
WE MUST COVER THIS TOMB AT ONCE, PERSES! THAT WE EVER FOUND IT!!! SWEAR EVERYONE INVOLVED TO SECRECY!!

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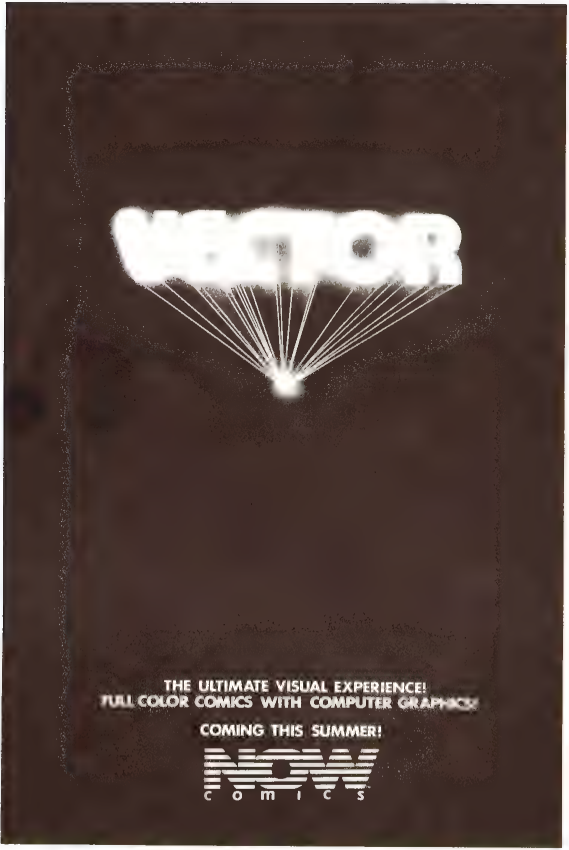
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KANSAS CITY, 2264 A.D .. ONE HUNDRED YEARS AFTER WORLD WAR III; THE WAR WHICH ENDED IN A NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST. CANADA, THE UNITED STATES AND MUCH OF MEXICO ARE NOW A SINGLE COUNTRY~ THE MILITARY STATE CALLED SIMPLY "AMERICA". DYING ALONG WITH DEMOCRACY WAS THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM~NOW ALL JOBS ARE GOVERNMENT JOBS. AMONG THESE JOBS IS THE ELIMINATION OF MUTATED, "NON-PRODUCTIVE" HUMANS. FROM THE POPULATION. THE PEOPLE WHO HOLD THIS POSITION ARE AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS "DOG CATCHERS"...

# FATBACK AND FATBONES

© DENNIS STAHL 1985

CLANG

ERG~ WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT IT?

MORNING, JONES

AH-AH-AH... I SAID "MORNING", NOT "GOOD MORNING." THAT MAKES IT A FACT, NOT A CRITIQUE... AND THEREFORE SAFE FROM QUESTION!

KANSAS CITY

SIGH YOU'RE HARD TO TAKE MONDAY MORNINGS, YOU KNOW IT?

MONDAY. GOD, I HATE THIS JOB!

WELL...YOU KNOW WHY DON'T YOU PUT IN FOR A TRANSFER?

OH, SURE. IF THE PEOPLE DOWN AT PLACEMENT FOUND OUT I WASTED A TRANSFER, THEY'D HAVE ME IN CHICAGO GETTING PREGNANT IN A FRIGGING FLASH! AND I AIN'T GONNA BE NO STINKING BABY MAKER! IT RUINS YOUR SOCIAL LIFE!

AW~ YOU'RE TOO OLD TO HAVE ANY BABIES, AREN'T YOU?

OH, AIN'T YA HEARD, FATS? THEY'RE CALLING ME A MEDICAL MIRACLE AT THE CLINIC! 22 YEARS OLD, AND STILL HAVING PERIODS! THEY SAY IN PROOF THINGS ARE GETTING BETTER! HA! ...BETTER FOR WHO?

Water

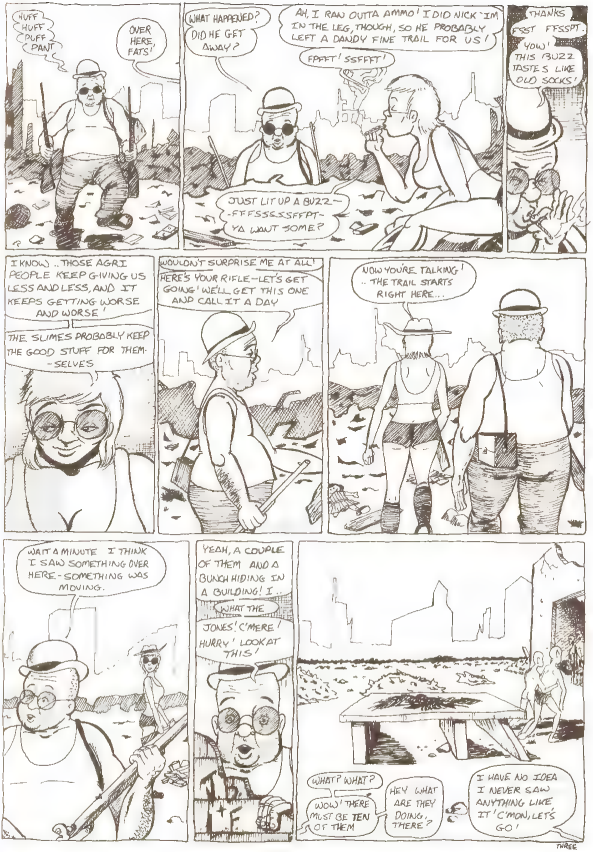
AW, I'M JUST DOING MY REGULAR MONDAY MORNING BITCHING! I AIN'T ABOUT TO LEAVE YOU, FATS... WE'RE A TEAM!

YEAH, I KNOW. HEY, WE BETTER GET TO WORK! WE'RE IN LUCK~ PAPER SAYS IT'S ONLY GOING TO BE 105 TODAY!

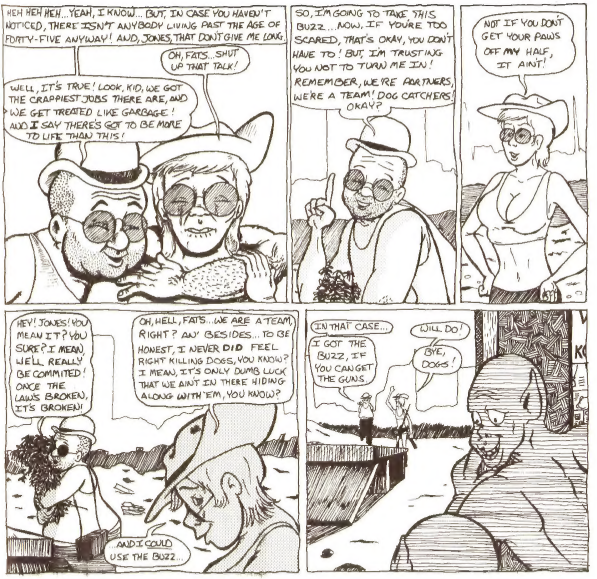
I THINK MAYBE I SHOULD PUT IN FOR A VACATION.. I GOT A FRIEND WHO'S A DOG CATCHER IN ARIZONA..

OH, YEAH.. DO IT, JONES! I SAW THE OCEAN ONCE~ IT'S BEAUTIFUL! SO MUCH WATER..

HEY! CAN I DRIVE TODAY?
NOT TODAY
WHEN CAN I ?
SOMETIME
YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT! I WANNA KNOW WHEN!
SOMETIME NOT TODAY
AWW I'M NEVER GONNA GET TO DRIVE
YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT
YEAH, AL, YOU'RE - HEY, FATS! SLOW DOWN! STOP!
PRETTY CLOSE, JOKES YOU CAN PROBABLY GET THEM WITH THE PISTOL
YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW, I KNOW
MAN, THE DOGS ARE SLIPPING... THIS IS TOO EASY
AAIIEEEE!!
KRAK
CRAP! I MISSED!
"TOO EASY" EH?
AU, SHUDDUP
SHOOSH
BIT?
C'MON, C'MON LET'S GO!
OH, NOT ANOTHER FOOT CHASE!
OKAY, YOU GO AHEAD. I'LL GRAB A COUPLE OF RIFLES AND SOME AMMO I'LL CATCH UP!
C'MON, DOG SLOW DOWN SO I CAN SHOOT YOU, WILL YA?


HUFF HUFF PUFF PANT
OVER HERE, FATS!
WHAT HAPPENED? DID HE GET AWAY?
AH, I RAN OUTTA AMMO! I DID NICK 'IM IN THE LEG, THOUGH, SO HE PROBABLY LEFT A DANDY FINE TRAIL FOR US!
FPPFT! SSFFFT!
JUST LIT UP A BUZZ - FFFSSSSSSFFPT - YA WANT SOME?
THANKS
FFST FFSSPT.
WOW! THIS BUZZ TASTES LIKE OLD SOCKS!
I KNOW... THOSE AGRI PEOPLE KEEP GIVING US LESS AND LESS, AND IT KEEPS GETTING WORSE AND WORSE!
THE SLIMES PROBABLY KEEP THE GOOD STUFF FOR THEM-SELVES
WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME AT ALL!
HERE'S YOUR RIFLE - LET'S GET GOING! WE'LL GET THIS ONE AND CALL IT A DAY
WOW YOU'RE TALKING! - THE TRAIL STARTS RIGHT HERE...
WAIT A MINUTE I THINK I SAW SOMETHING OVER HERE - SOMETHING WAS MOVING.
YEAH, A COUPLE OF THEM AND A BUNCH HIDING IN A BUILDING! I WHAT THE JONES! C'MERE! HURRY! LOOK AT THIS!
WHAT? WHAT?
WOW! THERE MUST BE TEN OF THEM
HEY, WHAT ARE THEY DOING, THERE?
I HAVE NO IDEA I NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT C'MON, LET'S GO!
THREE

WOW!
WOULD YOU LOOK AT THIS?
I'M LOOKING! I'M LOOKING!
WOW!
INDEED!
WH
SA
OHL
IT'S BUZZ, FATS! STILL ON THE PLANT! JUST BEEN PULLED!
YEAH... THE DOGS MUST'VE FOUND WHERE THE AGRI PEOPLE PLANT THE STUFF!
YEAH TOO BAD WE GOTTA TURN IT ALL IN!
WELL, UH, WE REALLY DON'T HAVE TO TURN ANY OF IT IN
C'MON, FATS. IT'S HARD ENOUGH AS IT IS... DON'T MAKE IT ANY HARDER, HUH?
LET'S JUST FRY THESE DOGS HERE, AND WE'LL CALL IT A DAY, LIKE YOU SAID
NO! JONES! STOP!
WHA-? FATS! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?
LISTEN TO ME, JONES. I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT I THINK I GOT THIS FIGURED OUT. THE DOGS LEFT THAT BUZZ THERE FOR US, SEE... THEY WANT US TO TAKE IT. THEY HOPE IF WE TAKE IT, WE WON'T KILL THEM! AND IF WE DO TAKE IT, AND WE DON'T KILL THEM, CHANCES ARE THEY'LL KEEP IT UP. GIVE US MORE! AND THAT'S MORE THAN THE GOVERNMENT'S DONE FOR US! THREE YEARS OF AT LEAST ONE DOG ELIMINATION A DAY, AND WHAT DO WE HAVE TO SHOW, HUH? NO RAISE, NO BONUS, NOTHING!
OH, FATS... OH, MAN... I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL ME... AND IT REALLY MAKES SENSE... BUT, IT'S KINDA SCARY, YOU KNOW? I MEAN, IF THEY EVER CAUGHT US... NOT DOING OUR DUTY, UNAUTHORIZED BUZZ... WE'D BE PUT TO DEATH, YOU KNOW THAT? I MEAN, THEY'D EXECUTE US WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT!


HEH HEH HEH... YEAH, I KNOW... BUT, IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, THERE ISN'T ANYBODY LIVING PAST THE AGE OF FORTY-FIVE ANYWAY! AND, JONES, THAT DON'T GIVE ME LONG.
OH, FATS... SHUT UP THAT TALK!
WELL, IT'S TRUE! LOOK, KID, WE GOT THE CRAPPIEST JOBS THERE ARE, AND WE GET TREATED LIKE GARBAGE! AND I SAY THERE'S GOT TO BE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS!
SO, I'M GOING TO TAKE THIS BUZZ... NOW, IF YOU'RE TOO SCARED, THAT'S OKAY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO! BUT, I'M TRUSTING YOU NOT TO TURN ME IN! REMEMBER, WE'RE PARTNERS, WE'RE A TEAM! DOG CATCHERS OKAY?
NOT IF YOU DON'T GET YOUR PAWS OFF MY HALF, IT AIN'T!
HEY! JONES! YOU MEAN IT? YOU SURE? I MEAN, WE'LL REALLY BE COMMITTED! ONCE THE LAWS BROKEN, IT'S BROKEN!
OH, HELL, FATS... WE ARE A TEAM, RIGHT? AN' BESIDES... TO BE HONEST, I NEVER DID FEEL RIGHT KILLING DOGS, YOU KNOW? I MEAN, IT'S ONLY DUMB LUCK THAT WE AIN'T IN THERE HIDING ALONG WITH 'EM, YOU KNOW?
AND I COULD USE THE BUZZ.
IN THAT CASE...
I GOT THE BUZZ, IF YOU CAN GET THE GUNS
WILL DO!
BYE, DOGS!
WHAT A CONCEPT! OUT OF FEAR FOR THEIR LIVES, THE DOGS MAKE OFFERINGS TO US, THE SUPREME BEINGS! AND ALL WE HAVE TO DO TO KEEP OUR END OF THE DEAL IS LET THEM CONTINUE THEIR MISERABLE EXSISTENCE!
YEAH! LIKE YOU SAID, WHAT A... WHAT A SCAM!
IT'S SO SIMPLE... SO OBVIOUS... I'M KIND OF SURPRISED THAT NOBODY THOUGHT OF IT BEFORE!
MM-HMM.
CAN I DRIVE BACK TO THE OFFICE?
NOT TODAY.
WHEN?
SOMETIME
BASTARD.
AH, THE SECRET'S OUT!
OH, SHUT UP!

RALPH SNARF
IN...
SWEET TALKER
DEFEND YOURSELF, YOU BLOATING FILTHY BAG OF SCUM-SUCKING MAGGOT-INFESTED BILE! PREPARE TO DIE, SCAB!
YOUR HIDEOUS ROTTING HIDE MAKES MY STOMACHE TURN, YOU FESTERING RETCHED PILE OF PUTRID, SLIMY PUKE!
THE VERY STENCH OF YOUR DISGUSTINGLY ODOROUS FLESH MAKES MY SKIN CRAWL, WHICH GIVES ME ALL THE MORE REASON TO CARVE UP YOUR BLOODIED MASS OF LIFELESS QUIVERING FLESH!
ANY LAST WORDS, YOU GRISLY AND GHASTLY EXAMPLE OF NATURE GONE HORRIBLY WRONG?!
CUT THE PRELIMINARIES - LET'S GO TO MY PLACE!
ICK!
END
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